Mitchell and Howard County Opportunity Fund – 2020

SNAPSHOT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>APPLICATION OPENS</th>
<th>AUGUST 1, 2020</th>
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<td>APPLICATION DEADLINE</td>
<td>OCTOBER 31, 2020</td>
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This document provides the necessary details about this specific grant opportunity, including deadlines and eligibility requirements. For information about accessing the online grants management site, tips on grantwriting, and more, visit the Grantseeker FAQ section of our website (www.cfneia.org). If you have any additional questions, please contact Program Manager Dotti Thompson at 319-243-1358 or dthompson@cfneia.org.

The Mitchell and Howard County Opportunity Fund
The Mitchell and Howard County Opportunity Fund was established in 2001 by an anonymous donor with the intent of giving much needed financial aid to non-profit organizations in areas of Mitchell and Howard Counties of Iowa. This fund is a component fund within the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa.

What We Support

Education
Improving the quality of education through support of both public and private institutions of learning. Providing opportunities for children to learn and experience things they may not ordinarily be able to do. Non-profit organizations providing an educational component within their programming are also eligible to apply.

Environment Education & Protection
Supporting conservation of natural resources, preventing and eliminating pollution, preserving water quality, protecting wildlife, and educating the public about environmental priorities. Providing opportunities for experiencing nature and outdoor recreation.

Eligibility to Apply for Funding
Organizations must provide benefits to the people of Mitchell and/or Howard County and must meet the following criteria in order to apply for a grant:

- Be classified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or be a government entity. Tax-exempt organizations classified as other than 501(c)(3) are also eligible if and only if the project is deemed charitable; please contact our office to discuss the project’s eligibility prior to submitting a proposal.
- Be current with all state and federal reporting requirements, such as filing of 990 forms.
- Must not have any past due grant reports for previous Mitchell and Howard County Opportunity Fund grants.

For groups, projects, or initiatives that do not meet the above eligibility requirements, the Community Foundation will consider your requests if submitted through a fiscal sponsor. Fiscal sponsors must be classified as a 501(c)(3) or a government entity. The Foundation prefers that the fiscal sponsor’s mission closely align with the sponsored project.

Fiscal Sponsors will be legally and financially responsible for any grant funds that are awarded by the Mitchell and Howard County Opportunity Fund.
Restrictions

- **Minimum grant request is $500 and maximum grant request is $4,000.**
- Inherently religious activities such as religious worship, instruction, or proselytization or activities that promote specific religious doctrine are not eligible.
- Typically, the Fund distributes a small number of grants (1-5) per year.
- **Late, incomplete, or hard copy applications will not be considered.** Incomplete applications are those that are in DRAFT mode at the time of the application deadline.

How to Apply

Applicants interested in seeking grants from the Mitchell and Howard County Opportunity Fund should fully review these grant guidelines prior to submitting an application to ensure all eligibility requirements are met. Applications must be submitted through the foundation’s online grant management system. Visit [www.cfneia.org](http://www.cfneia.org) to access the online grant system, and to find additional resources for grant seekers.

Important Dates

- **The grant application deadline is 11:59 pm on October 31, 2020.**
- All applicants will be notified of the results of the grant process in mid-December 2020.
- Grant reports, for successful proposals, are due January 31, 2022.

Grant Conditions

Awarded applicants are required to:

- Sign a Terms of Grant agreement which clarifies legal parameters for use of the grant.
- Submit a Grant Report to show the results of the project and to show that all the funds have been spent as intended. (If the project takes longer to complete, the Community Foundation will consider a request to extend the Grant Report deadline.)

Questions

Organizations interested in applying are advised to contact Program Manager Dotti Thompson (319-243-1356 or dthompson@cfneia.org) with specific questions on submission procedures or eligibility.

2019 Grant Funded Projects

Cedar River Complex – Water Protection
City of Riceville – Fire Turnout Gear
Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois - Leadership and Character Building Program
Howard-Winnesheik School District – Crestwood Elementary - Large Instruments for Playground
Notre Dame Church and School - Notre Dame 5210 Program - Natural Playgroup Structure
Riceville Community Foundation - Saving an Iowa Historic Artifact for Living History Education